



# DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

WASHINGTON DC 20330-1060

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

20 OCT 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM/FOA/DRU

FROM: SAF/AQC  
1060 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1060

SUBJECT: Increasing AbilityOne Contracting Opportunities

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and a perfect time for me to personally endorse the AbilityOne Program. AbilityOne provides employment opportunities for more than 47,000 people who are blind or severely disabled through federal Government contracts for supplies and services. This workforce also includes more than 3,300 of our wounded veterans.

In a recent memo (attached), the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP) highlighted the importance of AbilityOne and lauded the FY11 award winners. In the spirit of this memo, I wanted to strongly encourage contracting officers to engage with their customers in proactively seeking contracting opportunities suitable for the AbilityOne Program in order to foster greater opportunities and career paths for people with disabilities. I also wanted to congratulate all of our FY11 Air Force AbilityOne award winners identified in the attached DPAP memo.

As we continue moving forward with strategic sourcing initiatives, I believe the prospects for awarding new AbilityOne contracts to meet our supply and operational services requirements are stronger than ever. Two such examples are office supplies and contract closeout services. This month saw the commencement of the Mandatory Use Policy for Purchase of Office Supplies. This policy authorizes office supply purchases from AbilityOne Base Supply Centers as the only Air Force waiver from utilizing the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative (FSSI) Office Supply Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs). This month we also anticipate the award of two task orders under the AbilityOne Program to support in the closeout of approximately 11,360 Air Force contract actions.

Through our partnership with AbilityOne, we can continue to employ disabled workers who provide vital supplies and services that help us meet the mission of the Air Force, a win-win for all involved. You got it...we bought it...from AbilityOne!

WENDY M. MASIELLO, Maj Gen, USAF  
Deputy Assistant Secretary (Contracting)  
Assistant Secretary (Acquisition)

Attachment:  
30 Sep 11 OUSD AT&L DPAP